

REMARKS

An office action issued on March 1, 2007 because the amendment filed January 10, 2007 did not comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b).

Amendment Markings.

The markings showing the amendments made now conform to § 1.173(b). All amendments are made relative to the issued patent, and not to the previous amendment. See MPEP § 1453 (V)(D) (“[A]ll changes in the reissue are made vis-à-vis the original patent, and not in comparison to the prior amendment.”). All matter to be omitted is shown in brackets, new claim 26 is presented entirely underlined, and canceled claims have been canceled by a direction to cancel those claims.

Status of the Claims.

Claim 1: Claim 1 stands as it was previously amended by the amendment dated April 7, 2006. That amendment merely placed the claim into better U.S. format by introducing paragraphs, clearer punctuation, and the transition, “wherein.” No substantive additions were made to the claim.

Claims 2: Claim 2 is amended in this amendment to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1. Because claim 2 previously depended solely from claim 1, no substantive matter has been added by this amendment.

Claim 3: Claim 3 is the same as issued in U.S. Patent No. 5,393,368.

Claim 4: Claim 4 stands as it was previously amended by the amendment dated April 7, 2006. That amendment incorporated the subject matter of claims 1, 2, and 3 into the dependent claim 4 to place claim 4 into allowable format. Because claim 4 previously depended solely from claims 1, 2, and 3, no substantive matter was added by this amendment.

Claim 5: Claim 5 is the same as issued in U.S. Patent No. 5,393,368.

Claim 6: Claim 6 stands as it was previously amended by the amendment dated April 7, 2006. That amendment attended to an asserted antecedent basis issue. No substantive matter was added by that amendment.

Claim 7: Claim 7 is the same as issued in U.S. Patent No. 5,393,368.

Claim 8: Claim 8 has been amended in this amendment back to be consistent with the claim as issued in U.S. Patent No. 5,393,368. Claim 8 had been previously amended in the amendment dated April 7, 2006 to be in independent format, including all limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 8 has been further amended to attend to asserted issues of clarity. No substantive matter has been added by way of this amendment, and all changes relative to the issued patent are shown.

Claims 9 and 10: Claims 9 and 10 are the same as issued in U.S. Patent No. 5,393,368.

Claim 11: Claim 11 has been amended in this amendment to attend to asserted issues of clarity. No substantive matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Claim 12: Claim 12 has been amended in this amendment to attend to asserted issues of clarity. No substantive matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Claims 13 and 14: Claims 13 and 14 are the same as issued in U.S. Patent No. 5,393,368.

Claim 15: Claim 15 stands as it was previously amended by the amendment dated April 7, 2006. That amendment incorporated the subject matter of claims 1, 13 and 14 into the previously dependent claim 15 to place claim 15 into allowable format. Because claim 15 previously depended solely from claims 1, 13, and 14, no substantive matter was added by this amendment.

Claim 16: Claim 16 stands as it was previously amended by the amendment dated April 7, 2006. That amendment incorporated the subject matter of claims 1 and 14 into the previously dependent claim 16 to place claim 16 into allowable format. Because claim 16 previously depended solely from claims 1 and 14, no substantive matter was added by this amendment.

Claims 17-21: Claims 17-21 are the same as issued in U.S. Patent No. 5,393,368.

Claims 22-25: These claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 26: Claim 26 has been added by way of this amendment. Claim 26 includes all subject matter of claim 1, and also adds that “the path of the tape from the guide means toward the edge is in a direction substantially perpendicular to the edge.” Support for this subject matter can be found for example, with respect to the first embodiment in col. 3, lines 51-55 (“From the slot 14 the tape passes over the edge of ridge 11, from the inside to the outside surface thereof, and is thereby redirected to extend towards the tip edge 6 in a direction perpendicular to that edge.”) With respect to the second embodiment, see col. 5, lines 9-12 (“The tape 4 passes forwardly from the supply spool 2 to the peg 22 around which it passes so that the tape then extends towards the edge 6 in a direction essentially at 90° to that edge.”). With respect to the third embodiment, see col. 5, lines 28-30 (“The tape guidance is essentially the same [as the second embodiment] on both sides of the tip member...”).

CONCLUSION

It is earnestly submitted that the claims as now pending are allowable for the reasons set forth in the Response to the Office Action filed January 10, 2007 in this reissue application. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite

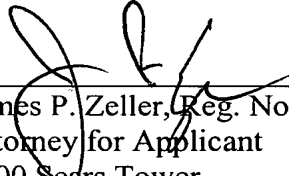
prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 29617/PM421A/US.

Respectfully submitted,

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